GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:349
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
RISE IN PRICES OF ONION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge shortfalls in production and supply of onion in the country and also there is escalating rise in prices;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure adequate suppy and availability of onion at reduced prices in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The production of onion in the country at 88.51 lakh tonnes during 2006-07, being less than the level of production at 92.048 lakh tonnes in the previous year has resulted in rise in its prices.

(c) to (e) : To ensure adequate supply of onion in the market, the Government has been monitoring the prices and market arrivals of onion on regular basis. Government has restricted the export of onion from the country by enhancing the Minimum Export Price (MEP) of onion. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. (NAFED) has been arranging distribution of onion through its outlets for retail sale to the consumers.